

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (currently amended) A system for maintaining inventory of a medical component of an implantable medical device system upon implantation in a patient, the system comprising:

~~at least one medical component used in conjunction with the~~ a plurality of medical components implanted in the patient and operatively coupled together to form an implantable medical device system implanted in the patient, each component having identifying information;

a programmer capable of identifying each medical component implanted in the patient;

a remote expert data center positioned globally at a ~~distal~~ distant location relative to the programmer;

an interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center; and

an inventory control module in data communication with the remote expert data center for receiving information identifying each medical component implanted in the patient and for updating an inventory module regarding inventory of each medical component implanted in the patient.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the medical component further comprises an implantable medical device.

18. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the implantable medical device further comprises a pacemaker.

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19. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the implantable medical device further comprises a defibrillator.

20. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the medical component further comprises at least one lead used to connect an implantable medical device to the patient.

21. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises a local area network communications link.

22. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises an Internet communications link.

23. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises a telephone line communications link.

24. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises a satellite communications link.

25. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises a global positioning system communications link.

26. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the interface between the programmer and the remote expert data center further comprises at least two communication links selected from the group of communication links consisting of a local area network link, an internet link, a telephone line link, a satellite link, a global positioning system link, and a combination thereof.

27. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the inventory control module receives bar coded information identifying the medical component implanted into the patient.

28. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the inventory control module receives serial number information identifying the medical component implanted into the patient.

29. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the inventory control module receives model number information identifying the medical component implanted into the patient.

30-58. (Canceled)

59. (currently amended) A system for remotely controlling inventory of a medical component of an implantable medical device system upon implantation in a patient, the system comprising:

means for initiating an interface between the implantable medical device system and a remote expert data center globally located at a ~~distal~~ distant location relative to the implantable medical device system;

means for transmitting information identifying the medical component implanted into the patient to the remote expert data center; and

means for updating the inventory of the medical component in the remote expert data center based upon the information identifying of the medical component.